(a) whether Government are aware that based on proven reserve of 732 million tonnes of crude oil and with the present GDP growth rate of 6 per cent the demand for crude oil is likely to be 190 million tonnes by 2011-12, which may necessitate 81 per cent import; and

(b) if so, what is our perspective planning in view of a limited resource base, lacking adequate infrastructure and an integrated long-term energy policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The estimated crude oil reserves of the country as on 01.04.2003 were 732 million metric tonne. As per the India Hydrocarbon Vision-2025 (IHV) report, the demand for crude oil by year 2011 has been estimated at about 190 million metric tonne.

Exploration for hydrocarbons and the resultant reserves accretion, have a 'cause and effect' but not a direct relationship. The above is a continuous process and with accelerated exploration and induction of new technologies, recoverable reserves keep on getting upgraded. The IHV report has laid down the road map and in order to enhance the oil gas security for the country, a multi-pronged strategy is being pursued namely; to accelerate indigenous oil and gas exploration efforts, to improve recovery from existing producing fields by application of improved oil recovery/enhanced oil recovery methods, to secure oil and gas abroad, to explore non-conventional sources of energy such as Coal Bed Methane and Gas Hydrates and to create stretegic petroleum reserves. Government has also started encouraging use of bio-fuel by blending ethanol with motor spirit.

National Culture Policy

985. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4359 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th May, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken any decision so far to formulate any National Policy on Culture;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be formulated and effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) No formal policy document has been formulated. However, the Government Mission includes protection and preservation of all protected mounments and all forms of cultural assets and heritage, both tangible and intangible. A number of institutions such as the Archaeological Survey of India, National Archives of India, Anthropological Survey of India, Institutes of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies, National Museums, Libraries, Akademies-Sangeet Natak, Lalit Kala, and Sahitya- and National School of Drama have been constituted for this purpose. In addition, the Government is providing grants under various schemes to individuals and institutions including registered societies, trusts and Non-Governmental organisations for achieving the above policy objective.

New areas of tourism interest

986. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total earnings generated by the tourism sector in the country, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tourism potential has not been tapped to the maximum;

(c) if so, the constraints in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Indian tourism industry is suffering on account of lack of infrastructure facilities and security for the tourists, lack of publicity in and outside the country and failure to identify new areas of tourism interest; and

(e) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to address these and other related shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The foreign exchange earnings through tourism during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 are Rs. 14238 crores, Rs. 14344 crores and Rs. 14195 crores respectively. Since July 2002 foreign exchange earnings picked up and there was a 10.65% increase between July-December 2002 as compared to the same period in year 2001.